

Message Text

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SUBJ: DAOUD COMMENTS ON PUSHTUNISTAN AND RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH PAKISTANI JOURNALIST, PRESIDENT DAOUD PRIASED NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) MEMBERS AS "BROTHERS", SAID NAP VIEWS ON PUSHTUNISTAN WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY GOA, AND REITERATED THAT GOA HAD PROOF PAKISTAN HAD ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW HIS GOVERNMENT. GOP REACTED TO DAOUD INTERVIEW WITH PRESS RELEASE CALLING HIS REMARKS INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMPLAINING THAT INTERVIEW HAD COMPLICATED EFFORTS TO REACH POLITICAL SOLUTION IN BALUCHISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. SMALL CIRCULATION RAWALPINDI ENGLISH DAILY, NEW TIMES, HAS PUBLISHED APRIL 18 INTERVIEW BETWEEN PRESIDENT DAOUD AND NEW TIMES OWNER-PUBLISHER. INTERVIEW WAS BILLED AS FIRST-EVER BETWEEN DAOUD AND PAKISTANI JOURNALIST. SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOWS:

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2. PUSHTUNISTAN: DAOUD DECLINED TO DEFINE PUSHTUNISTAN

PRECISELY, CHIDING INTERVIEWER FOR ASKING SUCH QUESTION ABOUT ISSUE THAT HAD BEEN ACTIVE SINCE PARTITION OF INDIAN SUBCONTINENT. DAOUD SAID NAP WAS TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF PUSHTUNS AND BALUCH AND THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD ACCEPT ANY NAP DECISIONS REGARDING PUSHTUNISTAN SO LONG AS THEY WERE ENDORSED BY "ENTIRE BALUCHIS AND PUSHTUNS". DAOUD DESCRIBED NAP MEMBERS AS "BROTHERS" AND ADVISED GOP TO TALK WITH NAP LEADERS RATHER THAN IMPRISONING AND MISTREATING THEM.

3. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN: DAOUD CLAIMED GOA HAD "DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE" PROVING THAT PAKISTAN HAD ACTIVELY TRIED TO DISLODGE HIS REGIME, AND SAID THIS EVIDENCE WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC IF NECESSARY. HE COMMENTED THAT PAK-AFGHAN COLLABORATION IN ECONOMIC OR OTHER FIELDS WAS NOT POSSIBLE UNLESS PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION RESOLVED, BUT THAT PUSHTUNISTAN WAS THE ONLY PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DAOUD CHARACTERIZED GOP ATTITUDE TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN AS HESITANT - SOMETIME FIRENDLY, OTHER TIMES UNFRIENDLY DEPENDING UPON EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. BALUCHISTAN: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER DAOUD'S REMARK TO LE MONDE REPORTER THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD NOT RULE OUT MILITARY INTERVENTION IN BALUCHISTAN IF SITUATION IN THAT PROVINCE WORSENER, DAOUD SAID THAT "UNREST IN PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN CAN NEVER LET US REST OR LEAVE US INDIFFERENT".

5. GOP REACTED TO PUBLICATION OF DAOUD INTERVIEW WITH APRIL 19 STATEMENT CALLING DAOUD'S SUPPORT FOR NAP "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES WHICH AMOUNTED TO DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER STATE." PRESS RELEASE CLAIMED THAT DAOUD'S COMMENTS ALSO MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR NAP AND GOP TO HOLD DIALOGUE ON BALUCHISTAN PROBLEM, SINCE MAIN DIFFICULTY "AROSE PRECISELY FROM THE KIND OF IMPRESSION SARDAR DAOUD HAD GIVEN ABOUT THE POLITICAL CHARACTER OF NAP". THE RELEASE CONTINUED THAT "IT IS FOR THIS REASONS THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE POSSIBILITY THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S NEW BALUCHISTAN POLICY CAN BRING IN ITS AMBIT ANY REHABILITATION OF THE NAP LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVELS OR AT THE CENTER AT LEAST IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE".

6. DESPITE GOP STATEMENT, MFA DIRGEN FOR AFGHANISTAN MANSUR AHMED TOOK RELAXED VIEW OF DAOUD INTERVIEW IN APRIL 19 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AND VISITING INR OFFICER

HOWELLS, SEEING NOTHING NEW IN IT.BYROADE

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